

# THE WEATHER

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)  
Brownsville and the Valley: Partly cloudy Friday night and Saturday.

# The Brownsville Herald

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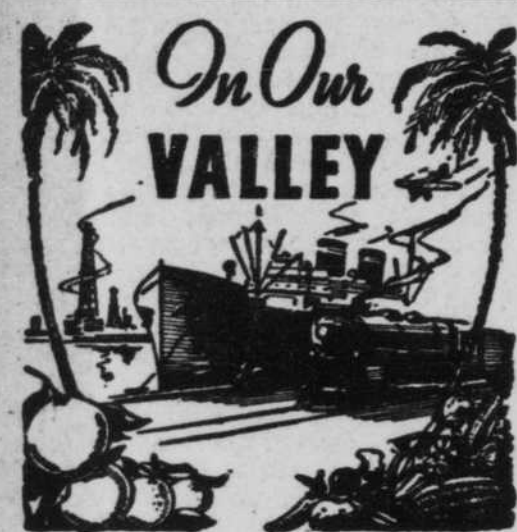
The Valley First—First in the Valley

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1936

EIGHT PAGES TODAY

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# JAP WAR DECLARED BY SOUTH CHINA



**THE WEATHER BAROMETER** is an interesting instrument just now among cotton growers on both sides of the lower Rio Grande.

It is just about a week since the barometer began showing "dry" after a period of several weeks of spotted rains—

Rains that caused much worry, with the fear that the prospective 70,000 to 100,000 bale crop on the American side, and 40,000 to 50,000 bale crop on the Mexican side might be menaced.

A 70,000-bale crop should bring the American side of the Valley a gross return of more than \$3,500,000, not including the seed.

And the Mexican side will fare relatively.

All of which should make for continued business activity through the summer months.

And speed up back and forth business between the two sides of the Rio Grande.

AND SPEAKING OF MONEY activities from crops here in the Valley, trade should keep a weather eye on that matter of the ex-soldiers' bonus that is due to start moving about June 15.

It is estimated that Valley veterans will receive more than \$2,000,000.

What are they going to do with that money?

Who knows?

Some will go for taxes. Some to pay off or reduce other obligations. Some for first payments on lands or lots. Some for automobiles. Some for clothing. Some for groceries. Some for gew-gaws and whatnots.

The veterans of the World War are now mature men.

Mostly they have seen the vicissitudes of life through history's greatest economic depression.

Some—let's hope most of them—will benefit by experience. Some, unfortunately, will not.

THE SAN BENITO LIGHT REMEMBERS that on June 3, 1911, the first carload of machinery was received for the San Benito sugar refinery.

Two years later, with mills here and there in the Valley, including one at Brownsville, one at Harlingen, sugar had become a dead issue.

Some said duty free sugar from foreign lands killed it. Some gave other reasons.

Anyhow, some of the buildings were good. And were salvaged. Notably that at San Benito, which is now the very wonderful central plant of the Central Power & Light Company.

THE LIST OF VEGETABLE packing sheds destroyed by fire in Hidalgo county has now reached thirteen.

The number may be significant. And it may not.

Whether or no, insurance companies have taken steps.

And by the way, one wonders whether happened about that investigation undertaken by the state fire insurance commission after the twelfth blaze.

PUBLISHER JACK WATSON OF Texas Citriculture and Farming, believes in good, topical photographs for the first page of his monthly citrus and farm magazine.

The June issue cover portrays a typical farm boy, standing in a field of corn.

In his left arm a mess of roasting ears, destined to do service probably as corn on the cob.

A picture that might be characteristic of any part of the Valley these days of early summer.

And, incidentally, inside the magazine a full page devoted to a description and photo of Brownsville among a large amount of other interesting editorial material.

# Need of Rio Treaty Urged Before State Body

## CONSERVATION CHIEFS STUDY VALLEY PLANS

### Robertson Tells Them Water Shortage Due Unless Pact Is Made With Mexico

AUSTIN, June 5. (P)—Engineers called for immediate steps Friday to conserve Texas' water resources as vital to the state's future development.

Members of the water resources committee of the Texas Planning Board, engineers representing various water users and spokesmen for the national resources committee discussed progress of a state survey.

F. S. Robertson of San Benito, general manager of the Cameron County Water Improvement District No. 2, urged the group to list as a major objective a water division treaty with Mexico on the Rio Grande.

Valley users face a dire shortage, he said, if Mexico diverts any considerable amount for irrigation. A treaty would enable interests to construct reservoirs to conserve large quantities of water lost in flood periods, he said.

Other speakers listed as an imperative need the enactment of an underground water supply protection law to guard interests of those whose investments depended upon the supply. The law would protect rights of those who drilled wells and put water to beneficial use.

## WILLACY CASE GOES TO JURY

### Defense Claims In Closing Arguments That Case Unestablished

WASHINGTON, June 5. (P)—A District of Columbia Supreme Court jury Friday began deliberation at 3:45 p. m. E.S.T. in the trial of seven men for conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with the Willacy County, Tex., irrigation system.

WASHINGTON, June 5. (P)—Arguments were concluded Friday in the trial of seven men for conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with a \$4,853,000 irrigation project in Willacy County, Texas.

George Hoover, chief of defense counsel, again told the jurors that investigation of the system arose from a "material men's fight" in (See WILLACY on Page Two)

## Wire Flashes

WASHINGTON, (AP) — The senate Friday agreed to a recess of congress from Monday, June 8, to Monday, June 15.

WASHINGTON, (AP) — The house Friday unanimously adopted a concurrent resolution providing that when the house and senate adjourn next Monday they stand in recess until noon the following Monday, June 15.

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Warrants for the arrest of Representative Marion A. Zionscheck and his wife, Mrs. Ruby Nix Zionscheck on assault charges were issued Friday by Judge John P. McMahon of police court.

Service of the warrants will be delayed, Karl Kindelberger, assistant district attorney, said, pending the outcome of the examination of Zionscheck's mental condition.

## More Candidates

Four more candidates filed Friday for places on the democratic ticket in Cameron county.

The latest candidates to announce are E. M. Ridley for county surveyor, W. F. Wyatt for constable of Precinct One, Tom Cowart for constable of Precinct Three, and Frank Roberts, Justice of the Peace, Precinct Three, Place One.

## Valley Traffic Toll for 1936

Deaths . . . 19

Injuries . . . 264

Accidents . . . 166

## 184-MILE HORSE MARATHON GETS BITTER PROTESTS

AUSTIN, June 5. (P)—John Wood, member of the State Highway Commission, and J. B. Early, chief maintenance engineer, Friday protested to Governor Allred, Attorney General McCraw and a Dallas Humane Society against a marathon horse race from Lampasas to Dallas.

"I claim it is inhumane to let horses run 184 miles in weather like this," Wood said. "Moreover, I think our state highways ought not to be used for a race track."

"Governor Charles A. Culberson once called a special session of the legislature and used the rangers to stop a big prize fight about to be pulled off in Texas," Wood said.

"Governor Allred could do the same thing and receive the public thanks."

## GASTON'S BODY IS FORWARDED

### Man Killed in Plunge From 9th Story Window to Be Buried in Oklahoma

(Special to The Herald)

HARLINGEN, June 5.—The body of Frank S. Gaston, 38, advertising executive who was killed Thursday when he plummeted from the top floor of the nine-story Rio Grande National Life Insurance Building here, was en route Friday to Weleetka, Oklahoma, for last rites.

Funeral services for the well known Valley man were to be held at the family home Saturday.

Officers are continuing their investigation of the fatal fall and are continuing to uncover evidence that Gaston was in a nervous, wrought-up state prior to the fall.

Shortly after a conversation with Gottlieb Schmolker, manager of the building, Gaston fell from a ninth story window to the canopy on the "A" street entrance, a distance of about eighty feet. He died about an hour later at 12:50 p. m. in the Valley Baptist hospital.

There was no one in the room with Gaston when he fell, but officers have located numerous persons who witnessed the fall from the streets.

## Prisoner Digs For Weeks, Is Caught

Persistence is not always rewarded, take it from Pedro Laguna, Matamoros jail prisoner.

Using a teaspoon to dig with, Laguna spent several weeks in tunneling through four feet of brick.

Friday, with only a short distance more to dig to freedom, officers discovered Laguna's escape plot.

He's in another cell now and his trusty spouse, somewhat worse for the wear, is back in the jail kitchen.

## Contract To Be Let On Santa Rosa Road

With the state highway commission to let contract Wednesday for grading and structures on the Santa Rosa-Edcouch highway, the Cameron county commissioners' court is correcting an old order in which it guaranteed the state sixty-foot rights-of-way for the road.

It was intended at the time that the order should read 100-foot, but by mistake the order was written for sixty-foot.

The gap being closed is five and one-tenth miles and when paved will give the Valley two all-paved routes between Harlingen and Edinburg.

## Farmer Is Slain Near Matamoros

Alejandro Rodriguez, 35, farmer, was shot to death on the Teolote ranch, situated six kilometers south of Matamoros, Thursday, and Manuel Islas, farmer of the same vicinity, has been charged with his murder.

The shooting followed a dispute over lands, according to investigating officers.

Rodriguez was killed almost instantly by a charge of buckshot which struck him in the back.

## Armstrong Denies Resignation Rumor

Persistent street rumors that he had resigned emphatically were denied by Chief of Police John T. Armstrong Friday.

"I have no idea how the rumor originated," Chief Armstrong said, "because I do not intend to resign and have not even discussed the subject."

City officials also contradicted the rumor. They also were at a loss to account for the origin of the rumor.

## CENTENNIAL'S CURTAIN GOES UP SATURDAY

### Roper and Allred To Open Celebration Of Texas' 100th Birthday

DALLAS, June 5. (P)—The curtain goes up Saturday on Texas' spectacular Centennial exposition, with Secretary of Commerce Roper touching off the big show at a mid-day ceremony.

A horde of 15,000 technicians scurried about the grounds Friday, flicking away the last traces of construction debris, checking lighting effects and making everything spick-and-span for opening day.

The reflecting basin on the beautiful esplanade was filled with water, every important building except the hall of state was ready and landscaping was virtually completed.

## Alfred To Turn Key

Action starts with a parade through downtown streets, winding up at the Centennial gates at noon.

It is estimated that it will take 10 hours for this parade, with its many floats, army, navy and marine corps detachments, bands and other units, to pass a given point.

At noon, Miss Frances Nalle, the bluebonnet girl, will hand the \$50,000 jewel-studded key to Mrs. Fred Schenkerberg, president of the James B. Bonham chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, who, in turn, will hand it to Governor James V. Allred.

The governor will insert the key in the lock and turn it. Then secretary Roper will say the words which, traveling around the world in a vast radio hookup, will cut the ribbon in front of the gates.

Madge Houston Thornhill, 6, gr. (See CENTENNIAL on Page Two)

## GOLD SEIZURE HEARING SET

### Bar Worth \$7,500 May Be Part of Loot Taken In Monterrey Bank Raid

(Special to The Herald)

EDINBURG, June 5.—A bandit raid on the government vaults in a Monterrey bank in which millions of dollars worth of gold bars were stolen in 1914 was recalled here Friday with arrest of a Santa Rosa man with a bar of gold bearing the stamp of the Mexican government.

The gold bar, valued at \$7,500, was seized as the man attempted to bring it across the international bridge linking Hidalgo with Reynosa Wednesday night. The seizure was made by Senior Customs Patrol Inspector John Wolford and Customs Inspectors R. W. Hirtzel and C. T. Boulware.

Customs Patrolmen, on the alert for smuggled alcohol following the seizure of alcohol valued at \$8,000 last week, found the precious metal (See GOLD on Page Two)

## U. S. Engineer Clears Up Untruths Published On Navigating Channel Here

Shippers and navigators have been "very well pleased with conditions of entering and service at the Port of Brownsville," states Colonel E. H. Marks, District U. S. Engineer, in a letter to the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

The letter came in response to a communication from the chamber of commerce calling the attention of Colonel Marks to an article appearing in The Valley Morning Star recently and leaving the impression that the Brownsville port is difficult to navigate.

"We naturally could not afford to trouble Colonel Marks about the several statements previously published in this connection," said G. C. Richardson, manager of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, "but since the article in question, appearing in The Valley Morning Star of Sunday, May 31, quotes 'The board of U. S. Army Engineers at Galveston,' we felt obligated to take it up with Colonel Marks and clear this matter up once for all."

The article in The Star was headed "North Winds Hamper Incoming Boats." Appearing under a San Benito dateline, it read: "The board of U. S. Army engineers at Galveston anticipated serious trouble by steamers in the Brownsville ship channel with winds from a northerly direction."

"Experts say that three tugs will be required to tow steamers from the cut-off of the Port Isabel channel to the turning basin at Brownsville because of winds which will force incoming boats against the south side of the channel."

"The channel is too narrow to allow tacking, one engineer said. Estimates of the cost of towing by tugs are not available at present."

In his letter Colonel Marks said: "Receipt is acknowledged of your (See PORT on Page Two)

## MAN OF IRON NERVE DIES SILENTLY



James D. McAllister, the first American ever to die as the result of action of Hidalgo county courts, paid with his life in the electric chair at Huntsville early Friday for the hitch hike murder of Percy Calkins, Houston salesman, near Edinburg. Below is Percy A. Calkins, who was shot in the back, his body stripped and thrown into the brush near Edinburg.

## SLAYER PAYS WITH HIS LIFE

### McAllister Electrocuted For Murdering Calkins Near Edinburg

(Special to The Herald)

HUNTSVILLE, June 5.—James D. McAllister paid with his life early Friday for the hitch-hike murder last year of Percy Calkins, Houston salesman, north of Edinburg.

Calm and silent to the last, McAllister walked to the electric chair from his death cell here early Friday morning, and a few minutes later was pronounced dead.

Shortly after a negro, William Richard Davis of Austin, was executed for the slaying of an Austin street car operator.

McAllister was the second American ever given the death sentence in Hidalgo county. He was tried and convicted in district court at Edinburg, along with Richard Palmer, his hobo companion, who was given ninety-nine years.

Palmer's case is on appeal, and the state's attorneys recently recommended a new trial on the (See SLAYER on Page Two)

## J. D. Ward To Seek County Judge Post

(Special to The Herald)

SAN BENITO, May 5.—James D. Ward, former county commissioner of the San Benito precinct, announced Friday that he will be a candidate for county judge in the democratic primary.

Ward, well known grower and gin operator, will oppose Judge O. C. Dancy of Brownsville, incumbent.

Ward expects to formally file his candidacy Saturday with H. L. Yates of Brownsville, chairman of the county democratic organization.

## BYRNS' BODY LIES IN STATE

### Roosevelt and Nation Pay Honors to Man High In Affairs of State

WASHINGTON, June 5. (P)—Lying in state before the rostrum from which he guided the house of representatives through history-making times, Joseph Wellington Byrns Friday was honored by President Roosevelt and the nation.

High officials of the United States and foreign powers bowed their heads with Byrns' colleagues in congress as the capital paid its last respects to the dead speaker.

Sadly the new speaker, William B. Bankhead of Alabama, spoke to the mourning throng of Byrns' deeds and his sudden death early Thursday. A heart attack and cerebral hemorrhage.

"There was no littleness in the man," he said.

Himself recovered only recently from a long illness as a visibly worn by the ordeal of the last few days, Bankhead had to pause often during his eulogy.

Rep. Bertrand Snell of New York, the republican leader, spoke of the dead leader of the house democrats as "my personal friend and colleague, Joe Byrns."

"He died as he had lived," Snell said, "a real man; loved, honored and respected by his colleagues and a distinguished speaker of the house of representatives."

## Townsendites Meet

Townsend clubs one, two and three will meet at the courthouse Monday night to hear N. G. Cofer, Townsend congressional candidate, speak, it was announced Friday.

Plans also are being made for the Port Isabel and Ed Jordin clubs to meet here Monday night.

## STATE RESTS ESKRIDGE CASE

### Weapons Taken From Car When Pastor Arrested Are Exhibited

HOUSTON, June 5. (P)—The state rested Friday in the trial of the Rev. Edgar Eskridge after introducing in evidence several weapons witnesses said the preacher had in his car when Louisiana officers arrested him for the shotgun slaying of Police Chief Ed O'Reilly of Orange.

Contending that the crusading Baptist preacher had prepared for the shooting after city and county officers had requested him to quit carrying pistols, the state called Dutch A. La Caze, Derider, La. police chief, to identify the arms.

La Caze and two other Derider officers arrested Eskridge near Derider a few hours after O'Reilly was shot to death on the streets of Orange May 29, 1935.

Weapons placed before the jury were:

One .22 caliber rifle.

One .38 caliber revolver.

One .45 caliber automatic pistol. (See ESKRIDGE on Page Two)

## U. S., England Pact On Franc Is Rumored

LONDON, June 5. (P)—The News-Chronicle, without stating its authority, said Friday an informal agreement had been reached between the United States and British governments to take common action in the event the French franc goes off the gold standard.

An authoritative source in Whitehall scouted the report, but pointed out, however, that the operation of the exchange control fund was so secret that not even parliament is advised concerning what is done.

The controllers of the fund could make their deal direct with Washington without going through the British foreign office.

## ACTION SEEN AS ATTEMPT AT COALITION

### Canton Government Seeks Declaration Against Japan By United China

HONGKONG June 5. (P)—An independent declaration of war against Japan was issued Friday by the Canton (South) Chinese government.

The Kuomintang (Nationalist Party), southwest executive committee and southwest political council ordered troops to march northward to resist "Japanese aggression."

The declaration was considered an attempt to force a united Chinese front against Japan by a coalition of the Canton and Nanking (North) governments.

## Troops Ordered Called

The war declaration ordered the troops to be called the "Anti-Japanese Salvation Army."

Provincial armies and public bodies earlier had addressed petitions to the southwest political council demanding troops be sent against the Japanese.

The demands, it was believed, were inspected by leaders of the two provinces of the Canton government—General Chai-Tong, leader of Kwangtung forces and Li Chung-Jen, Kwangsi leader.

An armed march against Japan for her alleged promotion of an autonomy movement in Fukien province, northeast of the Canton provinces, was reported by Japanese sources several days ago.

## 'Political Dispute'

Dispatches then related contradictory incidents involving aggression against Japan and civil war between Nanking and Canton.

Later advices, however, held the South China crisis as a political dispute between Canton government leaders.

The principals in the controversy, authoritative sources said, were Chancellor Chow Lu of Canton (See JAPS on Page Two)

## POWER FIRMS LOSE TO PWA

### Municipal Projects Built With Federal Funds Held Constitutional

WASHINGTON, June 5. (P)—Chief Justice Alfred A. Wheat of the District of Columbia Supreme Court Friday upheld the constitutionality of the Public Works Administration's \$200,000,000 power program in dismissing an injunction suit against municipal electric projects in four states.

Wheat ruled on three major legal questions in his lengthy opinion.

He held that the plaintiffs, the Alabama Power Company, the Texas Utilities company, the Oklahoma Utilities company, and the Iowa Light and Power company, had a right to bring suit to question the validity of the power controls.

He ruled, however, that the two statutes under which the projects are being carried out, the National Industrial Recovery Act, and the Emergency Relief Act of 1935, are constitutional.

## TONIGHT'S MOVIES OVER THE VALLEY

Brownsville: The Capitol—Carole Lombard and Fred MacMurray in "The Princess Comes Across." The Queen—Gene Autry in "Sagebrush Trail." The Dittmann—Claudette Colbert in "Imitation of Life."

San Benito: The Rivoli—Carole Lombard and Fred MacMurray in "The Princess Comes Across."

Harlingen: The Arcadia—Edward G. Robinson and Joan Blondell in "Buck or Baloo." The Baiter—Ken Maynard in "Western Courage."

La Feria: The Bijou—George Barragan and Ann Southern in "Hell Ship Morgan."

Raymondville: The Ramon—James Gleason in "Murder on the Bridge Path." Professional Soldier—Charles Bickford in "Fride of the Marines."

San Juan: The San Juan—Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Follow the Fleet."

Mercedes: The Capitol—Carole Lombard and Fred MacMurray in "The Princess Comes Across."

Weslaco: The Ritz—Spencer Tracy and Sylvia Sydney in "Fury."

Pharr: The Dickie—Dickie Moore in "Pharr."

Edinburg: The Valley—Victor McLaglen and Freddie Bartholomew in "The Soldier." The Soldier—Charles Chaplin and Mary Carlisle in "One Frightened Night."

Mission: The Mission—Charles Bickford in "Fride of the Marines."